

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composite product, comprising:

a transparent substrate;

a multilayer system comprising a functional layer and a layer C; and

a cover layer formed from a single material;

wherein:

the multilayer system has a solar-control function or an energy-control function;

the functional layer reflects at least some radiation of the solar spectrum;

the layer C comprises silicon or aluminum [nitride, carbonitride, oxynitride or oxycarbonitride], or a mixture of the two;

the layer C is surmounted by the cover layer; and

the ~~cover layer~~ single material comprises at least one oxide comprising Zr and at least one other metal.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the ~~cover layer~~ single material comprises a mixed oxide comprising zinc and zirconium ( $\text{ZnZrO}_x$ ).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the at least one oxide is doped with at least one other element chosen from Al, Ga, In, B, Y, La, Ge, Si, P, As, Sb, Ce, Ti, Zr, Nb, Hf and Ta.

Claims 9-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer has a thickness of about 15 nm or less.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the layer C further comprises at least one additional metallic element.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the layer C has a thickness of from about 5 to about 60 nm.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer comprises at least one metallic or metal-nitride-based layer.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, comprising a dielectric final sequence of layers including oxide/silicon nitride/oxide.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, comprising the following sequence:

Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/ZnO/Ag/ZnO/Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/cover layer

or Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/ZnO/Ag/ZnO/Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/ZnO/Ag/ZnO/Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/cover layer

optionally with a metal blocking layer in contact with at least one of the silver layers.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The composite product according to claim 1, wherein the composite product substantially preserves its properties after a heat treatment.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A glazing assembly, comprising the composite product of claim 1.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process for improving mechanical resistance of a transparent substrate, comprising applying a multilayer system comprising a functional layer and a layer C, and a cover layer to the transparent substrate;

wherein:

the multilayer system has a solar-control function or an energy-control function;

the functional layer reflects at least some radiation of the solar spectrum;

the layer C comprises silicon or aluminum [nitride, carbonitride, oxynitride or oxycarbonitride], or a mixture of the two;

the layer C is surmounted by the cover layer; and

the cover layer ~~comprises~~ is formed of a single material comprising at least one oxide containing Zr and at least one other metal.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 21, wherein the at least one oxide is a mixed oxide comprising zinc and zirconium ( $\text{ZnZrO}_x$ ).

Claim 24 (Cancelled).